

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09432 231759Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----090510 231800Z /75
O O 231748Z MAY 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8790
AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09432

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR MPOL SOPH GW CG US
SUBJECT: OTRAG TEST LAUNCH

REFS: (A) STUTTGART 989; (B) STATE 121044;
(C) STUTTGART 900

1. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT A DIRECT EXPRESSION OF
US GOVERNMENT CONCERN TO GOMPERTZ OVER OTRAG LAUNCH
PLANS.

2. CONGEN STUTTGART'S CONTACT WITH GOMPERTZ HAS BEEN
MOST VALUABLE, AND WE HOPE THIS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION
CAN BE MAINTAINED. IT HAS PROVIDED A UNIQUE SOURCE OF
INFORMATION ABOUT OTRAG ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION, WE NOTE
THAT CONGEN OFFICER QUITE PROPERLY SUGGESTED TO
GOMPERTZ ON MAY 9 THAT THE DECEPTIVE TACTICS OTRAG WAS
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USING COULD LEAD TO ADDITIONAL ADVERSE PUBLICITY
(REF C, PARA 4).

3. TO GO BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, AND CONVEY TO GOMPERTZ
AN OFFICIAL USG POSITION STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT
ANOMALOUS. SINCE WE AGREE THAT OTRAG IS STRICTLY
A PRIVATE ACTIVITY, WE WONDER WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE

FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO INFLUENCE ITS ACTIVITIES ANY MORE THAN WE WOULD THOSE OF ANY OTHER FOREIGN CORPORATION.

4. IT DOES OF COURSE SEEM POSSIBLE, AS STUTTGART HAS SUGGESTED, THAT GOMPERTZ IS NOT ACTING STRICTLY ON HIS OWN AND THAT OTRAG IS IN FACT FISHING FOR SOME EXPRESSION OF USG VIEWS -- AND THAT THE COMPANY MIGHT TAKE SILENCE AS AN INDICATION OF USG ACQUIESCENCE IN PRESENT PLANS. IN ADDITION, THE FACT THAT MUCH PUBLICITY, SUCH AS THE SZULC ARTICLE IN "PENTHOUSE," ALLEGES CIA SPONSORSHIP OF OTRAG COULD GIVE A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG A USG INTERVENTION.

5. ON BALANCE, OUR VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR CONGEN OFFICER, WHEN HE SEES GOMPERTZ ON MAY 24, TO REITERATE THE CONCERNS HE HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED, PERHAPS MAKING INFORMALLY SOME OF THE POINTS MADE IN REF (B), BUT TO AVOID SPECIFYING THAT HE IS DOING SO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OR THAT THESE NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL USG VIEWS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEST FACILITIES, MISSILE RANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780531/aaaaazpg.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1a20799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2609962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTRAG TEST LAUNCH
TAGS: PEPR, MPOL, SOPN, GE, CG, US, OTRAG
To: STATE STUTTGART
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1a20799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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